United Nations E/C.2/2001/2/Add.3

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
10 November 2000

Original: English

Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations
2001 regular session

Quadrennial reports, 1995-1998, submitted through the Secretary-General pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31

Note by the Secretary-General

Addendum

Contents

		Page
1.	Conference of European Churches	2
2.	CARE International	3
3.	International Federation Terre des Hommes	6
4.	International Kolping Society	9
5.	International Social Security Association	11
6.	MADRE	14
7.	Medical Women's International Association	18
8.	Mediterranean Women's Studies Centre	22
9.	Program for Appropriate Technology in Health	25
10.	Wittenberg Center for Alternative Resources	28

00-73934 (E) 060301

1. Conference of European Churches

(Special consultative status granted in 1979)

The Conference of European Churches (CEC) has a total of 125 member churches of all major denominations (except the Roman Catholic Church) in all countries of Europe and 29 associated organizations, which together represent more than 200 million Christians. During the period under review, the climax of CEC's activities was the organization of the second European Ecumenical Assembly in Graz, Austria, which brought together 15,000 participants for one week under the theme "Reconciliation". In 1998 the integration process of two formerly independent ecumenical organizations, CEC and the European Ecumenical Commission for Church and Society (EECCS) was finalized. CEC thus became a recognized non-governmental organization (NGO), with consultative status not only with the United Nations, the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the Council of Europe, but also with the European Union. During the quadrennium, CEC continued its involvement with the United Nations, its specialized agencies and the international NGO community, in particular in the areas of human rights, the environment and refugees, as well as conflict prevention and mediation.

At the second European Ecumenical Assembly, held from 23 to 29 June 1997, Christians from all over Europe and beyond reflected on their contribution to civil society at large and the intergovernmental organizations in particular. Topics included dialogue between religion and culture, economic justice, reconciliation between peoples and nations, environmental issues and cooperation with other regions of the world. Several representatives of the specialized agencies of the United Nations were present as speakers or resource persons. The findings and commitments of the Assembly were published in an extended documentation, which can be made available upon request. Follow-up activities include the establishment of a Churches' Conciliation Commission as well as the establishment of a European Christian Environmental Network with representatives of almost all of CEC's member churches.

The integration of CEC and EECCS led to the establishment of a new and more representative Commission for Church and Society, which has permanent working groups on topics such as: the European integration process, security concepts, economy and ecology, bioethics, human rights. Through this commission CEC serves as a link between the organizations and its member churches, monitoring the organizations and communicating developments in either direction. Being accredited as a NGO at several intergovernmental organizations, the new commission sees its task as reflecting on the developments in the organizations and supporting a coherent approach between them.

With regard to the United Nations, CEC attended every meeting of the Commission on Human Rights in the period under review with a monitoring team. Interventions by CEC at the Commission dealt with topics such as freedom of religion and belief, death penalty, rights of refugees and the right to development. Most statements of CEC are prepared in close cooperation with the other ecumenical organizations based in the ecumenical centre in Geneva, for example the World Council of Churches, the Lutheran World Federation and the World Alliance of Reformed Churches. CEC also took very seriously the challenge from the United

Nations Human Rights Centre to engage in human rights' education. Several human rights training courses were organized from 1995 to 1998, with a particular focus on Central and Eastern Europe. A training manual, in English and Russian, was widely published.

In several instances, CEC served as an operational partner on the ground for the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. In many countries, CEC member churches have trained refugee workers. This training offered, through CEC, coordination and support in crisis situations and trainees have been invited as resource persons to UNHCR meetings.

In 1995 to 1998, CEC continued to be actively engaged in preparing cooperation with United Nations agencies in attempts at conflict prevention and civil management of conflicts, with particular focus on the countries of the former Yugoslavia; a consultancy, established in January 1993, also continued to work during the period under review.

Following CEC's engagement at the 1992 United Nations Summit on Environment and Development, it continued to monitor the developments at the Commission for Sustainable Development and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The European Christian Environmental Network was founded in order to promote the local implementation of Agenda 21 and to address climate change, biodiversity, pollution and lifestyle issues from the perspective of the churches.

It should be noted that CEC has been closely related to the work of OSCE, a regional organization in accordance with Article 52 of the Charter of the United Nations. CEC, after having been involved in promoting religious freedom for several years, was recently asked to chair the OSCE Advisory Panel on Freedom of Religion and Belief. In consequence, relations with the United Nations Special Rapporteur on intolerance have also increased.

CEC participates regularly in the activities of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council (CONGO) and is a member of its special committees on human rights and disarmament.

2. CARE International

(General consultative status granted in 1991)

Aims and purpose of CARE International

CARE is one of the world's largest independent, international relief and development organizations. It is non-political and non-sectarian and operates in more than 70 countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Middle East and Eastern Europe. CARE works in partnership with individuals and families in the poorest communities in the world. Drawing strength from its global diversity, resources and experience, CARE promotes innovative solutions and is an advocate for global responsibility. Guided by the aspirations of local communities, CARE facilitates lasting change by strengthening capacity for self-help; providing economic

opportunity; delivering relief in emergencies, influencing policy decisions at all levels; and addressing discrimination in all its forms.

With members in 10 countries, CARE International is a confederation of fund-raising and management offices in Australia, Austria, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Japan, Norway, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America. CARE International's secretariat is in Brussels.

CARE receives funding from a variety of sources including individual and corporate donations, foundations, CARE international members, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Food Programme (WFP), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the World Bank, and the European Union, as well as host and donor Governments.

CARE International is a member of the Standing Committee for Humanitarian Response and the Global Policy Forum's working group on the United Nations Security Council.

Participation in the Economic and Social Council, its subsidiary bodies, conferences and other United Nations meetings

CARE International has maintained multilateral liaison offices in Geneva and New York since 1995. Through these offices, CARE was represented at United Nations donor briefings and consultations. Additionally, the liaison offices are active on various United Nations/NGO working groups and hold regular consultation meetings with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, UNHCR, UNDP, WFP, UNICEF, the Joint and Co-sponsored United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), UNFPA and the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM).

Apart from the coordination work of the multilateral liaison offices, CARE and its members have sent representatives to observe the Economic and Social Council and open Security Council meetings as well as to take part and contribute to other United Nations conferences, including

- Meeting of the UNHCR Executive Committee in Geneva 1995, 1996, 1997 and 1998
- Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 1995
  Prepcoms and NGO Forum
- The World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen, 1995
  Prepcoms and NGO Forum
- Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs monthly interaction meetings in New York, 1995, 1996, 1997 and 1998
- World Food Summit, Rome, 1996
  Consulted for Committee on world food security of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), which acted as preparatory committee to the Summit

- Samovia formula briefing for the Security Council on the Great Lakes Crisis, New York, July 1996, presented oral and written statements at the invitation of the Department of Humanitarian Affairs

- International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) Conference on Hunger and Poverty, November 1996, Brussels

- Business/United Nations collaboration for development, second joint action programme at the International Labour Organization (ILO) Training Centre, Turin, Italy, 1998

Cooperation with United Nations programmes and bodies

CARE offices around the world implement emergency relief and development projects in cooperation with and funded by a host of United Nations specialized agencies, including UNHCR, WFP, UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF. The following is a sampling of such projects carried out between 1995-1998.

Emergency food assistance and agricultural training programmes in cooperation with WFP in Iraq, Laos, Afghanistan, Rwanda, the Sudan and Comoros.

Family planning assistance and education programmes with UNFPA in Haiti, India, the Sudan, West Bank/Gaza.

Programming in post-conflict rehabilitation, village banking and credit, water supply, AIDS/HIV prevention and care, agricultural NGO capacity-building, child social services with UNDP in Cambodia, Myanmar, Yemen, Rwanda, Bulgaria and Croatia.

Programmes in refugee camp management, logistics, food and fuel distribution, sanitation, mother/child and reproductive health, returnee assistance and resettlement with UNHCR in Myanmar, Yemen, Zaire, Rwanda, Bosnia, Yugoslavia, Tanzania and Burundi.

Water supply, winter survival, youth recreation and training, HIV/AIDS, material and food distribution, logistics programmes with UNICEF in Iraq, Jordan and Viet Nam.

Other United Nations specialized agencies working with CARE International on country programmes during the reporting period include the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in Afghanistan, The American Near East Refugee Aid (ANERA)/IFAD and FAO in the West Bank/Gaza, the Institute for Small-scale Fisheries Development (IDPPE)/IFAD in Mozambique, UNESCO in Somalia and WHO in Thailand.

CARE USA signed a memorandum of understanding on 16 July 1996 with WFP that allows for more comprehensive and creative joint programmes.

CARE International and the United Nations Mine Action Service joined together in 1998 to develop a landmine safety manual and training programme for United Nations and NGO personnel working in countries with mines around the world. The manual and programme are based on ones CARE International developed for its own staff. The programme has received support from the United Nations Foundation support.

Other relevant activities

Following a briefing for Security Council members sponsored by the Department of Humanitarian Affairs, the senior Vice-President of programming for CARE USA, the Director of CARE International's country office in Rwanda and the Director of CARE's East Africa regional management office met with United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan on 12 February 1997 to discuss the Great Lakes Crisis in Africa.

In February 1997, CARE International's new Secretary-General, Guy Tousignant, met with the Under-Secretaries-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Peacekeeping Operations and the Deputy Directors of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and UNICEF.

In September 1998, the National Director of CARE Britain met with the Chief of the United Nations Mine Action Service to discuss further field collaboration following the successful collaboration on the landmine safety manual and training programme.

At the invitation of the Permanent Representative of Sweden, on 26 October 1998, CARE and three other international NGOs briefed members of the United Nations Security Council and urged them to actively seek a peaceful resolution of the war in the Sudan.

CARE International members called on their respective Governments to sign and ratify the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and Their Destruction.

3. International Federation Terre des Hommes

(Special consultative status granted in 1987)

Summary

This report is divided in four parts according to the instructions for the completion of quadrennial reports.

Part 1 contains background information on the mission of the International Federation Terre des Hommes, its activities, membership and sources of funding.

Part 2 lists United Nations conferences and meetings which were attended by the Federation, and subjects of its written and oral statements.

Part 3 concerns cooperation with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, namely the International Labour Organization (ILO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

Part 4 concerns other relevant activities, namely submission of information to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, contribution to the United Nations study on the impact of armed conflict on children,

participation in the organization of the first World Congress against the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children and publications.

1. Introductory statement

The mission of the International Federation Terre des Hommes (IFTDH) is to work towards the attainment of social development and to implement the rights of the child, without racial, religious, political, cultural or gender-based discrimination. To this end, IFTDH supports development projects designed to improve the living conditions of disadvantaged children, their families and their communities. IFTDH works in close collaboration with the beneficiaries, who are the primary participants in their own development, in sectors such as health, nutrition, education, living standards and community development, and gives priority to ensuring special protection for the most disadvantaged children. The Convention on the Rights of the Child constitutes the conceptual framework which guides IFTDH activities.

In their own countries and regions, the member organizations of the Federation raise funds to achieve their objectives. They bring to public attention, including children and young people, the causes of underdevelopment and the rights of the child. This is achieved mainly through information campaigns. They try to mobilize political will and advocate for appropriate governmental policies.

At an international level, the Federation cooperates with relevant bodies of the United Nations system to promote and implement the rights of the child and to advocate for the attainment of social development.

The Federation is composed of nine member organizations based in the following countries, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Switzerland and Syria, and works in more than 80 countries all over the world. It is funded by private donors, fund-raising events, corporate donors, governmental subsidies and multilateral donors.

2. Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies

From 1995 to 1998, IFTDH participated in the following United Nations meetings:

Economic and Social Council, substantive session in Geneva, in 1995 and 1997; Commission on Human Rights, Geneva, 1995-1998.

In 1996 the Federation submitted a written statement (E/CN.4/1996/NGO/73) on indigenous people.

From 1995 to 1998 oral statements were submitted on the following issues: child rights, sexual exploitation of children, street children, economic, social and cultural rights, extreme poverty and landmines.

Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, Geneva, 1995-1998.

In 1995 IFTDH submitted a written statement (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1995/NGO/3) on landmines.

In 1996 (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1996/NGO/32) on implementing the 20/20 Initiative.

In 1995 an oral statement was submitted on unemployment in Latin America.

Inter-sessional Open-Ended Working Group on a draft optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on Involvement of Children in Armed Conflicts, Geneva, 1995-1998.

Several oral or written statements on child soldiers were submitted to the Working Group.

The Federation has regularly attended sessions of the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery, the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in Geneva. The Federation submitted relevant information to the Committee on the Rights of the Child. In 1997 an oral statement on poverty was submitted to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

In 1995, the Federation attended the World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen. The Federation also attended sessions of the Commission on Social Development in New York in 1997 and 1998. In 1998, an oral statement on economic, social and cultural rights was submitted. The German section of the IFTDH is very involved in the follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development.

In 1998, IFTDH attended the United Nations Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Establishment of an International Criminal Court in Rome.

3. Cooperation with United Nations bodies and the specialized agencies

IFTDH participated in the preparation of the new ILO Convention concerning the prohibition and immediate action for the elimination of the worst forms of child labour, and attended the 1997-1998 sessions of the International Labour Conference. On this occasion, the Swiss section of the Federation coordinated the arrival of the Global March against Child Labour in Geneva in June 1998.

IFTDH cooperates actively with UNICEF mostly through its membership in the non-governmental organizations Group for the Convention on the Rights of the Child. At field level, collaboration is also developed for a few projects. IFTDH cooperates with the European Office of UNDP regarding the "Team to End Poverty Campaign". IFTDH cooperates with UNHCR for the elaboration of the module on exploitation for the "Action for the Rights of the Child" project.

4. Other relevant activities

(a) IFTDH received several requests for information from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in implementation of United Nations resolutions, and replied to many on various subjects, including human rights education, traditional practices affecting the health of women and children, the sale

of children, minimum humanitarian standards, the involvement of children in armed conflicts, and the right to development. These replies are referred to in United Nations documents (see E/CN.4/Sub.2/1995/6 and E/CN.4/1996/80/Add.1).

(b) The Federation cooperates with the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict and submits relevant information when appropriate.

(c) IFTDH was mandated in 1995-1996 by the United Nations study on the impact of armed conflict on children to prepare, as a background document, research on "Sexual Violence, Abuse and Exploitation of Children affected by Armed Conflict".

(d) On behalf of the NGO Group for the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Federation participated in the organization of the first World Congress against the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in 1996 in Stockholm. The other organizers of the Congress were the Government of Sweden, UNICEF and the Campaign "End Child Prostitution in Asian Tourism".

IFTDH disseminates information to its members about United Nations events, programmes and publications through an internal newsletter. Member organizations of the Federation also publish their own documentation and material to inform the public, for example, about the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

4. International Kolping Society

(Special consultative status granted in 1991)

Introduction

Within the last four years the International Kolping Society closed down some of its activities in Western Europe while starting new activities in East Europe, Africa and Latin America. The number of countries has not changed since our last report, but the number of associations and individual members has increased markedly.

As we did not participate in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or conferences and other United Nations meetings and did not cooperate with United Nations bodies and the specialized agencies, we want to inform you of our other relevant activities.

Regarding the contribution to the work of the United Nations, the International Kolping Society concentrated its work on the following issues:

1. Cooperation with other international non-governmental organizations with consultative status

2. Family

3. Exploitative child labour

4. Human rights

1. Cooperation with other international non-governmental organizations in consultative status

During the years from 1995 to 1998, the International Kolping Society continued its work in the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (CONGO), in the NGO Committee on the Family, in the NGO Committee on Development and in the Association of Non-Governmental Organizations of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. Together with other NGOs, the International Kolping Society has contributed to the development of the following declarations.

- Statement to the international non-governmental organizations on the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995.
- Statement to the fiftieth session of the United Nations General Assembly, provisional agenda item 107, entitled "Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family", September 1995.
- Statement to the special session of the Commission for Social Development, 21-30 May 1996, under "Strategies and actions for eradication of poverty".
- Statement to the Commission for Social Development, thirty-sixth session, New York, 10-19 February 1998, under the priority theme: "Promoting social integration and participation, including disadvantaged and vulnerable groups and persons (E/CN.5/1998/NGO/9)".

2. Family

The International Kolping Society is an active organization in the NGO Committee on the Family in Vienna. Our representative in Vienna was elected secretary of the Committee.

In addition to active cooperation in the Board of this Committee, the International Kolping Society also participated in the International Family Week, on 23 and 24 November 1998 at the Vienna International Centre, organized by the NGO Committee on the Family. Two representatives of our organization were speakers in the working group on training and housing schemes for disabled young persons and basic education. The International Board of Directors of the International Kolping Society decided upon a declaration on the International Day of the Family in 1996.

3. Exploitative child labour

The International Kolping Society paid strict attention to the debate within ILO in regard to ILO resolution 182 and ILO recommendation 190 on overcoming the worst forms of child labour. As a consequence of this debate, the International Board of Directors of the International Kolping Society dealt with this problem during its meeting being held from 17 to 22 May 1998. Mrs. Elisabeth Goodson from the ILO office in Hungary was one of the speakers during the meeting. As a result of the discussions, the International Board of Directors decided upon a declaration to overcome exploitative child labour and an action plan. The

declaration of the International Board of Directors was printed in different newspapers and brochures of the national Kolping Societies (total edition approx. 320,000), and the action plan was implemented in different countries.

As a support of the discussions in Geneva, many members of the Kolping Youth participated in the Global March on its way through Germany.

4. Human rights

The fiftieth anniversary of the declaration of human rights received special attention, and the International Board of Directors decided upon a declaration regarding this issue. In the declaration the International Kolping Society emphasized the universality of human rights and its obligation to work for human rights and to support the debate regarding a formulation of a charter of human responsibilities.

Finally we want to mention that two members of the Kolping Society participated in the youth forum of the United Nations system held from 25 to 29 November 1996 in Vienna.

5. International Social Security Association

(General consultative status granted in 1979)

The International Social Security Association (ISSA) is a non-profit organization which essentially brings together institutions and administrative bodies dealing with one or more aspects of social security in different countries of the world, namely all forms of compulsory social protection which by virtue of legislation or national practice, are an integral part of the social security system of these countries. Presently the Association has 364 member organizations in 143 countries. The Association fully shares the ideals of justice and social progress laid down in the Charter of the United Nations.

Aims

Cooperate, at the international level, in the promotion and development of social security throughout the world, primarily through its technical and administrative improvement, in order to advance the social and economic conditions of the population on the basis of social justice. This overall objective defines three fundamental and complementary missions: (a) focal point for different thinking about social protection throughout the world and international forum where administrators of programmes of different countries can compare their experiences, exchange information and discuss respective problems; (b) worldwide centre for the collection and dissemination of information concerning social security developments, innovative experiences, the principal debates having an impact on its evolution and the result of research carried out in this field throughout the world; (c) a tool for the use of member organizations to enhance their efforts aimed at improving social protection, to facilitate their cooperation and mutual assistance and to improve their administrative capacity.

Means of action

The principal means of action of the ISSA are the following: (a) organization of international and regional meetings and conferences; (b) collection and dissemination of information on social security arrangements throughout the world, particularly through international databases (Social Security Worldwide) and a publications programme; (c) promotion of research and surveys on social security issues and distribution of their results; (d) organization of training programmes for the personnel of social security organizations in various regions of the world and encouragement of technical assistance among member organizations; (e) cooperation with other international or regional organizations exercising an activity related to social security. For more detailed information, see the ISSA web site, www.issa.int.

Special contribution of the International Social Security Association to the International Year of Older Persons

The International Social Security Review, which the Association publishes quarterly in four languages (English, French, Spanish and German), is the main medium used by the Association in order to disseminate information about topical issues in the social field to all of its member organizations and to the wider public concerned with progress in social protection. A special issue of the *International Social Security Review* (Vol. 52, No. 3/99) seeks to play a full part in the ongoing debate on the future of social protection arrangements for older people around the world and presents discussions on the following issues: motivation, purpose and processes in pension reform; fundamental decisions for the reform of pensions systems; pension provision for specific risk groups: the Japanese case; equity and redistribution between generations: a challenge for the future of pensions and all social protection schemes; work, family, State and market: income packaging for older households; and adequacy and poverty among retired people.

During the reporting period, the publication of the Review and several meetings and conferences of the Association have furthermore given ample space to the issue of older persons. The concern for the problems of older persons has, inter alia, been demonstrated during the last General Assembly of the Association (October 1998), in particular in its triennial report, Developments and trends in social security 1996-1998, and more specifically in two chapters relating (a) to pension system reforms in responses to the growth in retired populations and (b) to a comparison of informal care policies. The International Year received further attention during the conference on Demographic trends and globalization: Challenges for social security which was held in Bratislava on 14 and 15 October 1999, where many of the recurrent themes of the end of the decade were discussed in the light of social developments, including older women's issues, policies to prolong "active ageing", solutions for the elderly in developing societies and long-term care issues.

Special note is made of the fact that the Association participated and made a technical contribution to the Expert Group Meeting on Rural Ageing, held in Shepherdstown, West Virginia, United States of America, in May 1999. This meeting was held under the auspices of the United Nations Programme on Ageing in anticipation of a major United Nations-sponsored international conference on the

rural elderly, which will be held in West Virginia in 2000. The contribution of the Association to the preparatory meeting held in Shepherdstown focused on trends in income security protection for the elderly, with a special emphasis on older persons working in the rural and informal sectors of the economy.

Further to the special events held during the International Year of Older Persons, the Secretary-General of the Association served as a keynote speaker, along with the United States Secretary of Human Development Services, Donna Shelala and Dr. H. Suzuki, Executive Director of the World Health Organization (WHO), at the official United States Government launching of the International Year, held in June 1999 in Washington, D.C. Again, the Association was asked to present a worldwide overview of developments and trends in social security protection of the elderly.

Special contribution of the International Social Security Association to social development throughout the world

Reforming social security systems has become a crucial issue in the world today. The Association's interest in this reform materialized in its Stockholm initiative, "The social security reform debate: in search of a new consensus", launched in 1996 with the objective of promoting a dialogue on the most important social protection issues. The initiative centred on pensions and, in particular, on the critical economic issues underlying the current worldwide debate about national pensions systems. A series of nine studies, examining topics such as the impact of pensions on the economy, the fiscal dynamics of different pensions approaches and the challenges involved in providing adequate retirement incomes have been published by Lawrence Thompson in a book *Older and Wiser: The economics of public pensions*, by the Urban Institute Press, Washington, D.C. The Association published a summary of these studies, *The Social Security Reform Debate: In search of a new consensus — A Summary*. In the coming years, the discussion will be enlarged to include other aspects of social security. The Association's new initiative, "Strengthening security in social security", will be officially launched in December 1999.

Particular note should be made of the fact that the ISSA has been asked to make a contribution to the Special Session of the General Assembly (26-30 June 2000), which will consider the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development. In accordance with decision 1 of the Preparatory Committee (contained in document A/AC.253/L.7/Rev.1, para. 10), the Association is asked, along with the International Labour Organization (ILO), to prepare a report for the Preparatory Committee at its second substantive session containing recommendations for further action in the field of social protection relevant to commitment 2, Poverty eradication.

In addition to this contribution to be submitted along with ILO, the Association will prepare a separate statement to be submitted to the second substantive session relating to the Association on governance of institutions, public and private, which ensure social protection measures.

Cooperation with specialized agencies

The International Social Security Association and the ILO maintain privileged relationships, which are an expression of the concern objectives of the two organizations and the way in which their activities in the field of social security and occupational safety and health are complementary. Over the period under review, the Association has continued to be represented regularly at ILO annual conferences and meetings dealing with social security, whilst numerous international and regional meetings of the Association have benefited from the effective participation of representatives of the International Labour Office. Special emphasis was put on the cooperation in training activities and the production of training materials. Inter-agency cooperation in the field of training has also been strengthened with organizations such as the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the Central American Council of Social Security Organizations (COCISS). Cooperation between the Association and WHO, which reflects their common interests, was continued during the 1996-1999 period, in particular regarding various health issues and occupational safety and health.

6. MADRE

(Special consultative status granted in 1995)

Introduction

During the period under consideration for this report (1995-1998), MADRE, a non-governmental organization (NGO) with consultative status in the Economic and Social Council, has participated in a series of activities that fall within the framework of the United Nations and in support of its work. These activities include direct participation in United Nations conferences; facilitation for MADRE's international partner organizations and their representatives to participate in United Nations conferences and other United Nations activities; regular attendance at the Commission on the Status of Women; regular participation in NGO forums related to United Nations activities; participation in NGO coalitions and committees related to work of United Nations agencies (the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM)); attendance to briefings by governments and NGOs on activities related to the United Nations; and participation with other NGOs in the work of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda. MADRE disseminates its United Nations-related activities through its biannual newsletter "*MADRE Speaks*", a web site and through other public education materials, as well as through its participation in conferences, speaking engagements and interviews and articles in electronic and print media.

MADRE's work in support of United Nations programmes has deepened our constituency's understanding of problems faced by women and children throughout the world. Consequently, the organization's ability to engage its membership in programmes that educate the public and invite community contributions towards the goals of the United Nations has been strengthened.

1. Aims and purposes of the organization. Increase in geographical membership. Substantial changes in sources of funding.

MADRE is an international women's human rights organization that works in partnership with community-based women's organizations in developing countries throughout the world. MADRE works to meet the survival needs of women and families in conflict zones by providing emergency shipments of food, medicines, medical supplies and other forms of material aid. Especially important is MADRE's support of community development initiatives that enable women to play leadership roles. MADRE campaigns in international forums to make human rights legislation relevant and accountable to the people it is meant to protect. The organization also does public education in the United States to raise awareness of the situation of women in conflict zones.

During the period under consideration in this report, MADRE has increased its membership, both in terms of numbers as well as geographical representation (see attachment).

MADRE's board of directors, based in the United States of America, is multiracial and cross-class:

Vivian Stromberg (United States)	Liliana Cortés (Puerto Rico)
Anne Hess (United States)	Hilda Díaz (Cuba)
Zala Chandler (United States)	Marie Saint-Cyr (Haiti)
Linda Flores (Puerto Rico)	Rochelle Korman (United States)
Andaye de la Cruz (Puerto Rico)	Margaret Ratner (United States)

In addition, MADRE has an international advisory board, with the following members: Dr. Myrna Cunningham (Nicaragua, for indigenous affairs), Dr. Fathieh Saudi (Jordan), Lepa Mladjenovich (Yugoslavia), Marie-Frantz Joachim (Haiti), Olga Rivas (Guatemala) and Mónica Alemán (Nicaragua).

Also during this period, MADRE has expanded its work in terms of the geographical areas in which it is involved. MADRE currently works in partnership with local organizations in the following areas: **Nicaragua, Guatemala, Cuba, Mexico, Haiti, Rwanda, the Balkans and Palestine**.

During the period considered for this report, there have been no substantial changes in the nature of the organization's sources of funding. MADRE continues to be funded by membership dues, donations, grants from private and religious foundations, legacies and subsidies in its favour. The organization does not receive government funding.

Among the foundations that have provided MADRE with financial support over the period of time considered in this report are the following:

Agape Foundation	Goldman Fund
Blossom Fund	Haymarket Fund
Boehm Foundation	Jewish Communal Fund
Bydale Foundation	Kelley Foundation
Church Women United	Stewart Mott Foundation
Dominican Sisters	MacArthur Foundation
Franciscan Charities	Ms. Foundation
Franciscan Sisters of Mary	New Land Foundation

Fund for Four Directions	Peace Development Fund
Fund for Non-Violence	Presbyterian Church (USA)
Funding Exchange	The Sister Fund
Gaea Foundation	Turner Foundation
Gerbode Fund	United Methodist Church/Global Ministries

2. Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or conferences and other United Nations meetings

From 6 to 12 March 1995, a MADRE representative attended the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen.

In September 1995, MADRE participated in the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing. At the official government conference, MADRE participated together with other NGOs in the drafting of language for legislation and lobbying efforts. In particular, MADRE concentrated on the areas of the girl child, cultural rights, health, sexual rights, education and economic rights. At the forum of NGOs in Huairou, MADRE organized and facilitated workshops and presentations on health and economic issues. MADRE sponsored the participation of 35 women from community-based organizations from the United States and the Dominican Republic, as well as representatives from our partner organizations in Nicaragua, Haiti and Guatemala.

In June 1998, as sponsor of the Women's Caucus for Gender Justice, MADRE participated in the Rome Conference for the establishment of the International Criminal Court. MADRE accredited representatives from women's organizations throughout the world. The work of the Women's Caucus for Gender Justice was pivotal in the discussions and negotiations to include a gender perspective into all aspects of the Court's jurisdiction, structure and operations. The Women's Caucus was also active in the NGO coalition during the Rome Conference.

MADRE regularly participates in the yearly meetings of the Commission on the Status of Women. The organization attends briefings by governments, NGOs with consultative status in the Economic and Social Council, and other specialized agencies regarding the agenda items. MADRE also facilitates the participation of representatives of our partner organizations in the meetings of the Commission on the Status of Women.

3. Cooperation with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies

In 1997, MADRE formed part of a consortium of international women's organizations that prepared and submitted an *amicus curiae* brief to the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, for the tribunal's inclusion of charges of sexual violation in the genocide cases. MADRE worked with Rwandan women's organizations in assisting them to prepare affidavits of women survivors of sexual violence linked to genocide, to present to the tribunal. A MADRE representative also served as an observer of the tribunal.

MADRE representatives were also part of the working group on armed conflict (a coalition of concerned non-governmental organizations that operates under the

auspices of the NGO Committee on UNICEF), and the campaign to gain Governments' support of an optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child that would raise the age of recruitment into the armed forces.

MADRE representatives attended meetings of the NGO Committee on UNICEF, particularly in relation to the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The organization also regularly attends briefings by UNIFEM, in particular those concerning violence against women.

4. Other relevant activities. Action in implementation of United Nations resolutions

Since MADRE's participation in the Fourth World Conference on Women, MADRE has been actively working towards the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action. MADRE's reproductive health programme, "Women's Health/Women's Right: A Reproductive Health Initiative in Four Communities in Latin America and the Caribbean" is conceptualized and carried out in the spirit of the conclusions and programmes of action established at three major United Nations conferences (the World Conference on Human Rights, Vienna 1993; the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo 1994; and the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing 1995). MADRE considers reproductive and sexual health to be a basic human right and necessary for the full and equal participation of women in society. Rather than focusing single-mindedly on population and family planning, MADRE's reproductive health initiative links reproductive and sexual health to overall social and material improvements in women's lives.

MADRE's programme in Guatemala, Training for Human Rights Enforcement — Advocacy, Documentation and Support (THREADS), trains women workers in the maquiladora factories in the concepts and uses of international instruments of labour and human rights legislation (including the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights, the Beijing Platform for Action) so they can address workplace abuses.

In Palestine, MADRE is supporting groups that address home and homelessness, and housing as a human right. It also provides resources and technical assistance to a partner organization that promotes the equal participation of girls and boys in education and cultural development.

In Rwanda, MADRE has provided material support and technical assistance to women's organizations addressing rape as a weapon of war. MADRE's strategies there have focused both on the legal arena (to raise the issue of sexual violence in the context of genocide) as well as direct humanitarian and development aid to community-based women's projects.

In the former Yugoslavia, MADRE has provided humanitarian aid to women's groups working with refugees, and to multi-ethnic, non-nationalist women's peace groups.

5. Dissemination of United Nations information

See attached publications corresponding to the period under consideration in the present report.

The dissemination of MADRE's United Nations-related activities is also done through the organization's participation conference, speaking engagements on college campuses and other educational institutions, as well as electronic and print media, radio and television.

7. Medical Women's International Association

(Special consultative status granted in 1987)

Aims and purposes

The Medical Women's International Association (MWIA) is a non-political, non-secretarian, non-profit association representing women doctors from all five continents. The aims of MWIA are:

(a) To encourage communication between women doctors worldwide;

(b) To encourage the entry of women into the medical and allied services;

(c) To assist medical women with postgraduate studies;

(d) To overcome discrimination between male and female physicians;

(e) To promote access to health for all throughout the world with particular interest in women, health and development.

During the quadrennial period under review (1995-1998) 7 new national associations joined MWIA, namely Zambia and Benin in 1995, and Argentina, Hungary, Mexico, Nicaragua and Panama in 1998. The Association's membership comprises 43 national associations and 52 individual members in 24 countries. The total number of members in 67 countries is approximately 15,000 (1998).

Participation in activities, meetings and conferences within the United Nations system 1995-1998

MWIA participated regularly in conferences and meetings of the Economic and Social Council and the United Nations and its subsidiary bodies. Of special interest to MWIA were the Fourth World Conference on Women, meetings of the Commission on the Status of Women, the Commission on Human Rights, the WHO General Assemblies and regional meetings and the Council for International Organizations of Medical Sciences (CIOMS). The main meetings attended were:

The Economic and Social Council

Fifty-second and fifty-third sessions of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok, 1996-1997

Major meetings of the United Nations

United Nations World Summit for Social Development, March 1995, Copenhagen

Preparatory conferences for the Fourth World Conference on Women, July 1995, Burkina Faso and Ethiopia

Fourth World Conference on Women, 4-15 September 1995, Beijing

MWIA has permanent representatives in New York, and Geneva who regularly attend meetings at United Nations Headquarters (e.g. UNICEF)

United Nations Subcommittee on the Status of Women

United Nations Subcommittee on the Status of Women, June 1995, Geneva

Working Group on the Girl Child and Working Group on Nutrition, May 1996, Geneva, Switzerland

Working Group on Nutrition and Working Group on Health, January 1997, Geneva, Switzerland

Forty-second session of the Commission on the Status of Women, 2-13 March 1998, New York

NGO Committee on the Status of Women, 22 June 1998, Geneva

UNESCO

Fourth session of the International Committee on Bioethics, 3 and 4 October 1996, Paris

World Health Organization

During the period from 1995 to 1998, MWIA was represented at 20 meetings of WHO:

General Assemblies (3); Executive Board (2); Regional meetings in Africa (3); South-East Asia (4); Europe (4); Western Pacific (2) and Americas (2). MWIA was also represented at the following international meetings:

First Global Forum on Health Research, 26 and 27 June 1997, Geneva

WHO, Fourth International Conference on Health Promotion, 21-25 July 1997, Jakarta

Presentations and statements

MWIA presented 10 written statements/documents and resolutions at various important meetings. The meeting, venue and short reference to the subjects of the statements/documents are listed as follows:

1. Statement presented at the thirty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, New York, March 1995, "Women's Health";

2. Statement presented at the forty-fifth session of the WHO Regional Committee for Europe, Jerusalem, Israel, September 1995, "Reproductive health — violence against women as a major health issue";

3. Statement presented at the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, September 1995, "Nutrition — quality of health care — violence as a health issue";

4. Statement presented to the WHO forty-ninth General Assembly, Geneva, May 1996, "Reproductive Health";

5. Statement presented at the WHO Regional Committee for Europe, Copenhagen, September 1996, "Sexual education — sexually transmitted diseases";

6. Intervention at the WHO ninety-ninth Executive Board, Geneva, January 1997, "Violence against women";

7. Presentation by the President of MWIA at the fourth International Conference on Health Promotion, Jakarta, Indonesia, July 1997, "Health Promotion: a challenge for NGOs in Africa";

8. Updated statement presented at the WHO General Assembly, Geneva, Switzerland, 1997, "Female Genital Mutilation";

9. Statement presented at the WHO Regional Committee for Europe, Istanbul, Turkey, September 1997, "Tobacco";

10. Eighteen resolutions and two joint position statements were presented to and passed by the General Assembly at the twenty-fourth International Congress of the Medical Women's International Association, October 1998, Sao Paulo, Brazil:

    The resolutions and position statements on "Afghanistan" and the "Plight of Widows in many countries in Africa and Asia", which were passed at the MWIA Congress 1998, have been widely disseminated to various international organizations including the United Nations, WHO, the World Medical Association and the appropriate departments of the United States Congress.

Cooperation with United Nations programmes, bodies and specialized agencies (1995-1998)

At the NGO Forum in Beijing, September 1995, MWIA held a workshop entitled "Women's Health in a Changing Society". The main topics of discussion were nutrition and women's health, violence as a health issue and access to high quality medicine. These topics have since been the main subjects of following statements given at international meetings by representatives of MWIA. Many affiliated national associations have activities and projects at local, national and international level. Some examples of cooperation with the United Nations and/or subsidiary bodies are:

UNICEF/WHO

The Egyptian Medical Women's Association organized projects in cooperation with UNICEF/WHO on AIDS (UNICEF 1994-1997), Breastfeeding-friendly private hospitals (UNICEF 1997), Training in reproductive health (UNICEF/WHO 1996-1998).

UNICEF

A theme of violence on minors was developed in conjunction with UNICEF through a series of seminars and meetings organized by the Italian Medical Women's Association.

UNICEF

Sponsors members of MWIA affiliated African national associations to attend international medical women's congresses (e.g. Medical Women's Association of Zambia).

UNDPA

A manual for the dissemination of information regarding "The beneficial and harmful impacts of traditional practices affecting the reproductive health of the woman in Cameroon" was produced by the Cameroon Medical Women's Association in 1995. The UNDPA financed the production and dissemination of the information. The International Women's Health Coalition (IWHC) financed the study.

WHO

1. Funding by WHO of a literature review of maternal mortality in Zambia.
2. Sponsored visits to rural women's projects in Zambia.
3. WHO helps the German medical women's associations to support a therapy centre (Medica Zenica) in Bosnia-Herzegovina for violated and abused women, especially refugees of ethnic origin (1995-ongoing).

Publications

A triennial congress report is published within 12 months after each MWIA International Congress. This report contains detailed information on activities of the National Associations, International and United Nations representation, resolutions passed at the Congress etc. Information from United Nations/WHO press releases and from United Nations publications, and reports from MWIA participants at United Nations/WHO and other international meetings are published in the MWIA Update. The MWIA Update is published three times a year and is widely distributed to all national associations and members in the 67 countries where MWIA is represented. For many of the members, especially the Individual Members, this is the only available source of United Nations information.

Subscriptions

MWIA subscribes annually to the following associations: Non-Governmental Organization Committee on the Status of Women, Special Committee of International Non-Governmental Organizations on Human Rights, European Women's Lobby, Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council, Non-Governmental Organization Committee on UNICEF, Council for International Organizations of Medical Sciences (CIOMS).

8. Mediterranean Women's Studies Centre

(Special consultative status granted in 1987)

The Mediterranean Women's Studies Centre (KEGME), was founded in October 1982. Based in Athens, KEGME is a non-governmental organization (NGO) in consultative status to the United Nations Economic and Social Council; a board Member of the European Network of Scientific and Technical Cooperation for Women's Studies (ENWS), under the auspices of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO); National Contact for the European Network on Conflict Prevention and Reconciliation.

The Centre is governed by a seven-member Board of Directors and Ketty Lazaris is the elected President. A scientific Committee is composed by representatives of women's NGOs from various Mediterranean countries. A wide Network of women scientists and researchers closely cooperate in the activities of the Centre.

Aims:

(a) To study, analyse and improve the position of women in the family and in economic, social and public life;

(b) To increase awareness and simulate action that will promote equality between women and men in all areas of life;

(c) To sensitive women about ecological problems and mobilize them to protect the environment;

(d) To assist women in preserving their cultural heritage and their women's values;

(e) To develop methods and take initiatives in conflict resolution and in the promotion of peace in the Mediterranean;

(f) To support national, regional and international campaigns and programmers about issues of major concern such as AIDS, drugs, alcoholism, criminality, etc.

To achieve its objectives, KEGME has developed various areas of responsibilities e.g., feminist and action-oriented research, gender studies programme, training projects for the promotion of human rights, with emphasis on

women's rights, activities relating to the protection of the environment, programme of feminist alternatives for the promotion of sustainable peace, organization of seminars, symposia, workshops and conferences on a wide number of issues related to women as well as establishing a Documentation and Information Unit.

KEGME has cooperated with various national and international bodies e.g. with UNESCO, the International Labour Organization (ILO), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW), and the European Union, for the implementation of various programmes. KEGME is in contact with the United Nations Department of Public Information, Non-governmental Organization Section.

KEGME has also been funded by various private enterprises, Greek banks and Greek national institutions.

1995-1999

The Mediterranean Women's Studies Centre has obtained special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council in 1987.

During the period from 1995 to 1999, KEGME has developed various activities which are in line with the United Nations objectives. Specifically:

1995 KEGME has put all its efforts preparing for the Fourth World Conference on Women.

- Since 1994 KEGME has disseminated information on the United Nations women's NGOs in order to get ready for Beijing. By common accord and the recommendation of the General Secretariat for Equality in Greece, KEGME undertook to coordinate the work of the NGOs for their participation in the Beijing forum.
- KEGME participated in the NGO consultations for the preparation of the Beijing Conference in New York, on 13 and 14 March 1995.
- KEGME co-organized the second Forum of Mediterranean Women, a preparatory meeting for Beijing, in Tunis from 2 to 4 June 1995, under the auspices of UNESCO.
- KEGME has participated with a seven-member delegation in the Beijing Forum and organized three workshops: (a) "Mediterranean women's rights in a multicultural context", (b) "The women's movement towards 2000: its visions and perspectives", (c) "Women and development: an alternative model".
- KEGME's President was included in the national delegation as liaison between NGOs and the official delegation.
- KEGME participated in the NGO forum and the United Nations World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen in March 1995.

Returning from Beijing, KEGME representatives who participated in the Forum, wrote their impressions from Beijing in the Greek press while its President appeared in various television panels.

- Another important activity, relating to the United Nations International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, was the organization by KEGME of a European symposium on "Gender Approaches to Emergency Situations:

Women's Realities" held from 4-7 May 1995. The symposium was organized in cooperation with UNESCO, the Council of Europe and the Greek Ministry for Environment.

- In relation to the environment KEGME has organized four two-day workshops with the theme: "We live together: environment and development, north-south cooperation" and sensitization projects targeting women and children.

1996

- As a follow-up to the Beijing Conference, KEGME organized throughout the year four district workshops popularizing the two Beijing documents: the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action.
- KEGME's Project Manager participated as observer at the sessions of the Economic and Social Council in New York.
- KEGME's Project Manager participated as an observer in the Habitat Conference in Istanbul.
- As a follow-up of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements and promoting the Habitat Agenda, KEGME organized a Conference on: "Urbanization, safety and quality of life: women's proposals", 8-9 November 1996.
- Concerning the promotion of Human Rights, KEGME conducted a one-week seminar, "Establishing and Monitoring Women's Rights in Russia", Moscow, 17-21 April 1996. The seminar was sponsored by the United Nations Population Fund, UNFPA.
- On the occasion of the International Television Day, KEGME organized a panel on "Women in the Mass Media", 25 November 1996.

1997

- KEGME has attended the forty-first session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women in New York, 10-21 March 1997.
- KEGME's President and its Treasurer attended the sixth session of the United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in Vienna, and made a recommendation concerning violence against women.
- KEGME's Project Manager represented the Centre at the five-year follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in New York.
- KEGME's President and its Secretary General participated in the fiftieth annual Department of Public Information/NGO Conference "Building Partnerships", New York, 10-12 September 1997.
- KEGME participated in the twentieth General Assembly of the Conference of NGOs under the theme "Defining the Future" in Geneva, 3-5 November 1997.
- KEGME participated at the International Conference on "Migration and Human Rights in the Mediterranean", Malta, 16-18 May 1997.

- June 1997: At the suggestion of UNESCO, KEGME hosted Sacha Todorova, Director of the Bulgarian Women's Information Centre, newly established by UNESCO in Sofia. During her 10-day stay in Athens she followed the works of KEGME and learned management, programming and initiation of activities for the new Centre.

1998

- KEGME participated at both sessions of the Economic and Social Council in New York.
- KEGME's Project Manager participated in the World Conference on: "Women and Development" in Addis Ababa on the occasion of the United Nations celebration of the fortieth anniversary of the establishment of the Economic Commission for Africa.
- KEGME participated, by special invitation, in the ceremony of the 1998 annual UNFPA award for the "Most successful practices for community health" in Uganda. The award was given to the elders' association in the district of Sabini for their efforts to eliminate the practices of female genital mutilation.
- On 27 and 28 February 1998, KEGME launched a Development Project in Uganda for rural women. The Project on: "Natural Resources Management by Women in Uganda", targeting six local districts, will be carried out over a period of two years. The project is co-sponsored by the European Union and UNFPA, as training Seminars on Women's Reproductive Rights and Health Issues, including AIDS prevention, are programmed.
- From 17 to 19 May 1998, KEGME participated in Seminar on "Human Rights in Development Education", Fano, Italy.
- From 4 to 8 October 1998, KEGME presented its Development Project for rural women in Uganda, in the Seminar on: "Environmental Conservation and Education" organized by the Pedagogical Academy of Linz, Austria.
- On 14 December 1998, KEGME organized a one-day workshop on "Women's Dialogue for the Promotion of Peace, Democracy and Human Rights in South East Europe". The Workshop focused on the rights of immigrant and refugee women. The present report was drawn up by KEGME's President, Ketty Lazaris and Scientific Director Eleni Stamiris.

9. Program for Appropriate Technology in Health

(Special consultative status granted in 1995)

The Program for Appropriate Technology in Health (PATH) is an international non-profit, non-governmental organization (NGO) dedicated to improving health, especially the health of women and children. PATH identifies, develops and applies appropriate and innovative solutions to public health problems, particularly in low-resource settings. To meet the health needs of developing countries, PATH invents or adapts technologies and provides technical assistance to improve health products and programmes. In keeping with its mission, PATH is committed to three goals:

improving women's health, improving children's health and preventing communicable diseases. PATH's headquarters and a programme office are located in Seattle, Washington (United States of America). Additional offices are located in Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Kenya, the Philippines, Thailand, Ukraine, Viet Nam and Washington, D.C.

Path obtained Category II consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations in August of 1995. Outlined below is a significant representation of 1995, 1996, 1997 and 1998 consultative and substantive activities undertaken in cooperation with United Nations bodies and the specialized agencies and officials of those agencies.

The World Health Organization

- PATH has been designated as a WHO collaborating centre in three technical areas: research on human reproduction; AIDS; and Hepatitis B Vaccination; thereby providing technical assistance in those areas to United Nations bodies.
- PATH has produced technical reports and resources that are widely distributed in collaboration with WHO. Examples include documents on a range of family planning topics, including reviews of contraceptive method mix and the health benefits of family planning, a review of female genital mutilation eradication programmes in Africa, which provides comprehensive baseline information, and a manual, entitled *Procurement of Vaccines for Public Sector Programmes*, which incorporates vaccine procurement policies of the United States Food and Drug Administration, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the World Health Organization (WHO).
- With support from the WHO/Reproductive Health Programme, PATH conducted a quality assurance survey of contraceptives in 22 countries, for which input was gathered from local family planning agencies, regulatory officials, and relevant donor agencies. Study findings and recommendations provide a resource for the increasing number of countries moving towards local manufacturing of contraceptives, and PATH works with WHO, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and other agencies to assist countries in the transition from donated contraceptive commodities to self-sufficiency.
- PATH, with WHO and other agencies, provided technical assistance to the Ukrainian Government in its effort to immunize all adults against diphtheria.
- In collaboration with the WHO/Epidemiology Programme and support from other agencies, PATH has designed and evaluated several non-reusable syringes and other injection devices meant to ensure safe injections.
- WHO has provided partial funding for PATH's work in the "alternative rites" approach to the eradication of female genital mutilation.
- PATH serves as secretariat and manages the Bill and Melinda Gates Children's Vaccine Program together with global partners to implement programme activities: partners include WHO, UNICEF and the World Bank.

The United Nations Children's Fund

- PATH presented a public talk on "State of the World's Children" by the Executive Director of UNICEF on 20 May 1998, in Seattle; about 150 Seattle residents attended.
- UNICEF is distributing SoloShot™, a single-use, disposable injection device developed by PATH, at a rate of more than 5 million units each month, helping to prevent transmission of disease through unsafe reuse of syringes.
- HEATmarker™ vial indicator, developed by PATH and a private-sector partner, is a chemically treated label that changes colour when exposed to heat whereby health workers can tell if the vaccine is safe to use. UNICEF now requires such labels, known generically as vaccine vial monitors, on all oral polio vaccine it distributes worldwide. PATH assists WHO with vaccine vial monitors training materials, studies and laboratory validation.
- PATH is participating in the UNICEF/Becton Dickinson and Company Partnership for Child Health, a five-year global immunization campaign to eliminate neonatal tetanus. Launched in 1998, the campaign uses two safe-injection devices developed by PATH and licensed to Becton Dickinson — UniJect™ and SoloShot™ — to administer neonatal tetanus immunizations to expectant mothers. PATH also helped to identify a tetanus toxoid vaccine supplier and will assist in implementing immunization campaigns in targeted countries.

The United Nations Population Fund

- PATH hosted a briefing and reception featuring the Executive Director of UNFPA, on 21 April 1998, at its Seattle headquarters. About 50 Seattle area residents interested in family planning, population, and development issues attended the event.
- PATH, in collaboration with and funds from UNFPA, conducted a programme to assist China to improve the efficacy and safety of contraceptives manufactured in China. The programme started in 1979 and officially ended in 1998. Similar programmes were conducted in India, Indonesia, Mexico, Thailand and Viet Nam.
- PATH has worked for several years with commercial and academic collaborators to develop and introduce diagnostic technologies for sexually transmitted infections and other infectious diseases that are low-cost, rapid and easy to use. This work has been funded by a host of agencies including UNFPA and the World Bank.
- PATH, for 17 years, has published *Outlook*, which features news on reproductive health technologies and topics of interest to developing countries. *Outlook* is published four or five times a year in Chinese, English, French, Indonesian, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish; and reaches over 35,000 readers in more than 180 countries. Major funding for *Outlook* comes from UNFPA; additional funders include WHO.

10. Wittenberg Center for Alternative Resources

(Special consultative status granted in 1995)

The Wittenberg Center acts to create forums and disseminate information between traditional indigenous peoples, grass-roots environmental and interfaith spiritual networks, and to facilitate modalities of interchange between traditional indigenous elders, grass-roots groups and policy makers to promote ways to achieve a sustainable world for all peoples. The Wittenberg Center seeks opportunities for people of all faiths, colours and traditions to come together in mutual respect to address the problems that face us at this critical time.

Highlights of the Wittenberg Center for Alternative Resources NGO activities 1995-1998

(Unless noted, all activities took place at United Nations Headquarters in New York)

17 January 1995: Prepcom for Social Summit. The Wittenberg Center for Alternatives Resources sponsored a presentation by Dr. Arvol Lookinghorse, the 19th Generation Keeper of the Sacred Calf Pepe on "Indigenous Wisdom, Prophecies and Society".

15 March-4 April 1995: Prepcom for Fourth World Conference on Woman, "Earthkeepers: women of the four directions", meetings and round tables, co-sponsored by the Wittenberg Center.

18-20 September 1995: 48th annual Department of Public Information/NGO conference, "The United Nations at the turn of the century: global action, global responsibility", facilitated NGO panels and round tables.

24 October 1995: "We the peoples: 50 communities awards", Wittenberg Center was awarded a certificate of recognition by the friends of the United Nations.

5-15 February 1996: Third Prepcom, Habitat II, "Values of Indigenous Peoples in relationship to the Habitat Agenda", a Values Caucus panel discussion co-sponsored by the Wittenberg Center.

18 April-3 May 1996: Commission on Social Development, representatives participated with the Indigenous Peoples Caucus. Report prepared for circulation through the United Nations NGO Committee on the International Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples.

6 October 1996: Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Istanbul, Turkey, Wittenberg Center assisted the Centre for Human Rights in organizing round-table discussions and presentations on "**Indigenous peoples, shelter and the land**".

21 June 1996: "World Peace Prayer Day for Global Healing", Grey Horn Butte, Wyoming, United States of America, Executive Director acted as facilitator for event.

10-12 September 1996: Forty-ninth annual Department of Public Information/NGO conference "The United Nations: Facing the challenges of a Changing World". Representative Monica Willard was chair of the conference planning committee; and representative Grace Smith Yellowhammer was a keynote speaker.

December 1996-present: United Nations NGO Committee on the International Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples, Wittenberg Center representatives Pamela Kraft and Roberto Borrero, Vice-Chairs. Activities include coordination of subcommittees and issuing updated lists of various United Nations agency focal points and resources for indigenous and tribal peoples. Executive Director helped to draft the questionnaire on activities of United Nations Member States on programmes and initiatives pertinent to the Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples. **9 December 1996** — meeting held with Mr. Ibrahima Fall, Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights was coordinated by Wittenberg Center Representative Kraft.

9 December 1996: Informal soundings on NGOs and the United Nations, Executive Director presented a statement.

April 1997: Commission on Social Development, Representatives coordinated through the Indigenous Caucus meetings, Earth Summit II, creating linkages between Values Caucus, Indigenous Peoples and Women's Caucus. Representatives worked on major groups participating under Agenda 21. **9 April 1997: "Working Together: Shared Values in Sustainable Development"**. Representative Borrero panellist.

30 April 1997: "NGO consultation on increasing access to the United Nations General Assembly and its Main Committees and all areas of the work of the United Nations", Executive Director participated.

8 August 1997: International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples: Pamela Kraft, Programme Chair; Roberto Borrero, Master of Ceremonies and Co-Chair for dialogue sessions on "Indigenous Peoples and the Land".

22 January-6 February 1998: Black Mesa and Phoenix, Arizona, United States of America, the Executive Director and representatives attended special hearing and acted as NGO observers for the visit of the Special Rapporteur on religious intolerance to indigenous sacred lands.

30 January-4 April 1998: A Season of Nonviolence, co-sponsored the opening and closing ceremonies.

23 February-6 March 1998: Intersessional meeting for the Commission on Sustainable Development. Focus on inclusion of indigenous peoples as major group participants.

20 April-1 May 1998: Commission on Sustainable Development, NGO parallel forum on Indigenous Peoples Agenda 21.

23 April 1998: Values caucus event honouring the International Association of Permanent Representatives to the United Nations, held at the Church Center, the Wittenberg Center, co-sponsor.

14 May 1998: the United Youth International Youth Conference, the Wittenberg Center co-sponsored a workshop on the Earth Charter.

5 and 6 August 1998: Fourth commemoration of the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples. The theme was "Education and Language". Representative Pamela Kraft was Chair of the Programme Committee, and Roberto Borrero was Master of Ceremonies. A complete report was issued by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

14-16 September 1998: Department of Public Information/NGO Conference on the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: From Words to Deeds, representative Monica Willard served on the Executive Committee coordinating this event.

15 September 1998: International Day of Peace, representatives served on planning committee.

16 September 1998. Wittenberg Center for Alternative Resources co-sponsored the **Second Annual Inter-faith Service of Commitment to the Work of the United Nations**, which commemorated the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

26 and 27 September 1998: Prayer Vigil for the Earth, Washington, D.C., co-sponsored by the Wittenberg Center.

4-10 October 1998: "Belonging to Mother Earth Conference", Virginia Beach, Virginia, United States of America, the Wittenberg Center co-sponsored an international gathering of indigenous prophecy keepers.